

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OUAGAD 02371 281010Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-15 /026 W
-----108751 281013Z /21
R 271701Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4293

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2371

FOR AF ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UV
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS - UPPER VOLTA ACTION PLAN

REF: STATE 146378

1. WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING AS A SUBSTITUTION FOR PARAGRAPH 4(A)

QUOTE:

UPPER VOLTA WAS PART OF FRENCH WEST AFRICA PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE IN 1960. DURING A PERIOD OF PUBLIC UNREST IN 1960, THE MILITARY ASSUMED CONTROL, BANNED POLITICAL ACTIVITY, AND DISSOLVED THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR FOUR YEARS. IN A 1970 REFERENDUM, THE VOTERS APPROVED A NEW CONSTITUTION REESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY. IN 1974, VIRTUAL GOVERNMENT PARALYSIS LED PRESIDENT LAMIZANA TO SUSPEND THE CONSTITUTION AND AGAIN DISSOLVE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. POLITICAL PARTY ACTIVITY WAS AGAIN RESTRICTED, BUT THE LABOR UNIONS REMAINED POLITICALLY ACTIVE. IN FEBRUARY 1976, A PREDOMINANTLY CIVILIAN CABINET REPLACED A PREDOMINANTLY MILITARY ONE, AND PLANNING BEGAN FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALLOWING THE THREE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES TO BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN AFTER THREE DORMANT YEARS. IN JANUARY 1977, A NEW CABINET WAS NAMED IN WHICH THREE-FOURTHS OF THE MEMBERS ARE CIVILIAN, AND MOST OF THEM HAVE STRONG TIES WITH ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE TWO BIGGEST PARTIES. THE GOVERNMENT

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IS PRESENTLY STUDYING THE DRAFT OF A NEW CONSTITUTION WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED AND SUBMITTED TO A REFERENDUM IN THE AUTUMN OF 1977. LEGISLATIVE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ARE PLANNED FOR THE END OF 1977 OR EARLY IN 1978 TO IMPLEMENT THE STATED GOAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO REINSTATE A PARTICIPATORY, CONSTITUTIONAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN UPPER VOLTA. UNQUOTE

2. WE ALSO SUGGEST ADDING THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE TO
THE END OF PARAGRAPH 4(A)(2) ON RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL
LIBERTIES: QUOTE
LABOR UNIONS OPERATE FREE OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL UNQUOTE.

3. ASIDE FROM THESE SUGGESTIONS WE THINK THE DRAFT IN REFTL
IS FINE.
BIGELOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OUAGAD02371
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770230-0264
Format: TEL
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770614/aaaaamlv.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7255da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 146378
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2022452
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS - UPPER VOLTA ACTION PLAN
TAGS: SHUM, UV
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7255da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009